



JUL 14 1978

Admiral Stansfield Turner  
Director of Central Intelligence Agency  
National Security Council  
Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Admiral Turner:

As you know, on June 28 President Carter signed Executive Order 12065, "National Security Information," which becomes effective on December 1, 1978. Section 3-402 of the Order requires the heads of agencies with classification authority to draw up guidelines for the systematic review of twenty-year-old classified information under their jurisdiction. The guidelines are to be issued within 180 days of the effective date of the Order, that is, by May 30, 1979. In addition, the guidelines are to be issued "after consultation with the Archivist of the United States."

In 1973 and 1974 members of my staff worked with drafting committees of the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) in what proved to be an unsuccessful attempt to prepare declassification guidelines for thirty-year-old intelligence information. That effort failed in part because the issuance of guidelines was not mandatory at the time, and in part because the agencies involved could not resolve their differences over some aspects of the review process.

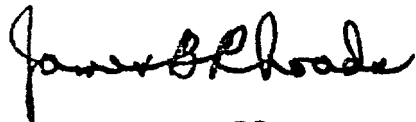
With the new Order we now have an opportunity, as well as an obligation, to start afresh. All of us concerned with identifying information for release or for continued protection must join to ensure that workable guidelines are developed as soon as possible. You are, I am sure, aware of the fact that as each agency drafts its own guidelines, it will be looking to you for basic guidance on the review of twenty-year-old documents containing information on intelligence sources and methods. Without such guidance we face the continued use of widely divergent guidelines formulated by each agency on an ad hoc basis.

On file GSA Release  
Instructions apply.

2.

By giving this matter your prompt and personal attention, you could provide the leadership essential to the preparation of substantive guidelines for the review of classified intelligence information. We are, of course, ready to consult with you or with members of your staff at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James B. Rhoads".

JAMES B. RHOADS  
Archivist of the United States

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